AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for servicing streaming media comprising:

receiving, at a computer system, said streaming media;

determining, at said computer system, an allocation of available processing and memory resources;

performing, at said computer system, a multi-stage service on said streaming media; and

caching, at said computer system, an intermediate result from one of the stages of said multi-stage service, said result selected according to said available processing and memory resources.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said service is a computing-intensive media services.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said resources are selected from the group consisting of a transcoder, a first cache, and a second cache.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said service comprises transcoding functions.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said result is a final transcoding result.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said transcoding functions are selected from the group consisting of frame rate reduction, bit rate reduction and resolution reduction.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said caching comprises caching intermediate transcoding results of an output stream of said streaming media provided a target bit rate of said output stream of said streaming media is greater than a data caching rate of said streaming media.

8.   (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein said intermediate transcoding results comprise meta data that is selected from the group consisting of pixel, block, macroblock, picture and sequence.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said transcoding functions are performed by resources selected from the group that consist of motion vector generator, bit rate controller and parser.

10.   (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer useable readable storage medium having computer useable readable code embodied therein for causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

        receiving said streaming media at said computer;

        determining, with said computer, an allocation of available processing and memory resources;

        performing, with said computer, a multi-stage service on said streaming media; and

caching, with said computer, an intermediate result from one of the stages of said multi-stage service, said result selected according to said available processing and memory resources.

11.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein said service is a computing intensive service.

12.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein said resources are selected from the group consisting of a transcoder, a first cache, and a second cache.

13.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein said service comprises transcoding functions.

14.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein said result is a final transcoding result.

15.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 13, wherein said transcoding functions are selected from the group consisting of frame rate reduction, bit rate reduction and resolution reduction.

16.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein said caching comprises

caching intermediate transcoding results of an output stream of said streaming media provided a target bit rate of said output stream of said streaming media is greater than a data caching rate of said streaming media.

17.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein said intermediate transcoding results comprise meta data that is selected from the group consisting of pixel, block, macroblock, picture and sequence.

18.   (Original) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of Claim 13, wherein said transcoding functions are performed by resources selected from the group that consist of motion vector generator, bit rate controller and parser.

19.   (Original) A device for servicing streaming data comprising:
        a processor for determining available processing and memory resources; and
        memory for caching an intermediate transcoding result from a stage of a multi-stage data service, said intermediate transcoding result selected according to said available processing and memory resources.

20.   (Original) The device of Claim 19, wherein said service is a computing intensive service.

21.   (Original) The device of Claim 20, wherein said resources are selected from the group consisting of a transcoder, a first cache, and a second cache.

22.   (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 19, wherein said intermediate transcoding result is selected from any of the respective stages of said ~~multistage service~~ multi-stage data service.

23.   (Original) The device of Claim 19, wherein said result is selected to optimize the balance of processing and memory resources used in providing said service.

24.   (Original) The device of Claim 19, wherein said device performs transcoding functions that are selected from the group consisting of frame rate reduction, bit rate reduction and resolution reduction.

25.   (Original) The device of Claim 19, wherein said caching comprises caching intermediate transcoding results of an output stream of said streaming media provided a target bit rate of said output stream of said streaming media is greater than a data caching rate of said streaming media.

26.   (Original) The device of Claim 25, wherein said intermediate transcoding results comprise meta data that is selected from the group consisting of pixel, block, macroblock, picture and sequence.

27.   (Original) The device of Claim 24, wherein said transcoding functions are performed by resources selected from the group that consist of motion vector generator, bit rate controller and parser.